

# Respirator Requirements

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- Use limitations**
- Does the respirator fit properly? [3CCR § 6739(e)] Respirators should be snug, but not so tight as to distort the facial topology or cause worker discomfort.
  - Face sealing respirators shall not be worn when conditions prevent a tight face-to-face-piece seal. Employees with facial hair (heavy stubble, drooping mustache, long sideburns, beards) that prevent a gas-tight seal shall not wear respiratory protective equipment that requires a tight face-to-face-piece seal for proper operation. Other types of non-face-sealing respirators, if adequate for mitigating the hazard, may be chosen.
  - In accordance with 3CCR § 6739(o), air-purifying elements (chemical cartridges, filters, canisters and dust masks) will be discarded daily, absent other information on the end-of-service life indication from the equipment manufacturer or the pesticide labeling.
  - Air-purifying respirators shall not be worn when an oxygen-deficient atmosphere (less than 19.5% oxygen by volume) is known or suspected, or in environments where high concentrations of air contaminant may be present.
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**IDLH atmospheres**

IDLH stands for Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health. Fumigant confined structures are considered an IDLH atmosphere unless proven otherwise by appropriate measuring devices. If employees may be working in an IDLH atmosphere, they must be trained in the procedures [3CCR § 6739(g)] necessary to ensure their safety and proper selection [3CCR § 6739(c)(2)(A-C)] of a respirator for these conditions.

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**Medical evaluation**

Verify that each employee that uses a respirator completed the required Medical Evaluation Questionnaire and that they have an understanding of the purpose of the questionnaire. [3CCR § 6739(q)] Employers must assure that a medical evaluation is conducted to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator before they are fit tested or required to use the respirator in their workplace [3CCR § 6739(d)]. Questionnaires contain confidential medical information and may not be available for inspection. Verify use by interviewing the employer and employees and by examining the Medical Recommendation Form.

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## Respirator Requirements, Continued

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### Medical evaluation (continued)

Verify that the employer has obtained a Medical Recommendation Form on each employee that wears a respirator and that the form has been reviewed and signed by either a physician or other licensed healthcare professional (PLHCP)[3CCR § 6739(s)]. These records must be made available for inspection. Employee self-assessed medical evaluations are no longer allowed.

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### Voluntary respirator provisions

First determine if an employee voluntarily wears a respirator according to the provisions provided in 3CCR § 6739(b). Next determine if the employer or the employee supplies the respirator.

If the respirator is supplied by the **employee**:

- The employer must display the Voluntary Respirator Provision Information given in 3CCR § 6739(r). Is the employee aware of this information? The information must be displayed with the PSIS A-8 or N-8.
- The employer must determine that the respirator use will not create a hazard. Ask the employer how that determination was made.

If the respirator is supplied by the **employer**:

- The employer must display the Voluntary Respirator Provision Information given in 3CCR § 6739(r). The information must be displayed with the PSIS A-8 or N-8.
  - The employer must provide training and medical evaluations at no cost to the employee.
  - The employer must establish and implement a written respiratory protection program to ensure that the employee is medically able to use that respirator except for the voluntary use of **filtering face-pieces (dust masks)**.
  - The employer must maintain the PLHCP recommendation documentation.
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### Questions

Please refer any questions regarding respiratory protection for pesticide handling and use to DPR's Worker Health and Safety Branch at (916) 445-4211.

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